



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE/PSA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Couple Honored as Foster Parents of the Year

John and Rhonda Henley have been foster parents for the past four years. They have fostered ten children, provided respite care on numerous occasions, and have adopted two children for whom they provided foster care. They use their shared parenting skills and their compassion to work with Social Services and the birth parents to assist families in reunification.

On April 26th, John and Rhonda were honored by the Catawba County Social Services Foster Care Unit as Foster Parents of the Year at the Annual Foster Family Appreciation Banquet.

Over 513,000 American children are in foster care because their own families are in crisis and unable to provide for the children's essential wellbeing. Like all young people, youth in foster care deserve and benefit from enduring, positive relationships with caring adults.

John and Rhonda exemplify the ways in which foster parents can make a positive impact. They decided to foster for the purpose of merely "trying to make a difference in children and families lives". Four years later, this purpose has been fulfilled through success stories of reunited families, infants being placed with relatives, recruited adoptive families for children they have fostered, and seeing those homes becoming a permanent plan for the children.

Rhonda is a kind, sweet lady who nurtures the children and helps repair the broken hearts of children when mom does not show for a visit, or when mom and dad make no progress and the courts say, "no more." John and Rhonda work with the children daily to help them understand and let them know they are cared for, no matter how they may feel about the parents' progress or lack thereof.

May is National Foster Care Month, which serves as a platform for connecting more of these vulnerable children with concerned, nurturing adults. Catawba County Social Services invites you to join in advocating for our young people in foster care. No matter how much time you have to give, you have the power to do something positive that will "Change a Lifetime" for a young person in foster care.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, contact (828) 465-8901.